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General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

241st meeting

Monday, 9 April 2001, 10 a.m.

New York

Chairman: Mr. Thapa ..... (Nepal)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Thapa (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

The Acting Chairman: I declare open the 241st plenary meeting, the resumed 2001 organizational session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

This meeting is convened in order to deal with the outstanding organizational matters related to the 2001 substantive session, including the election of the Chairman and other officers.

Election of the Chairman and other officers

The Acting Chairman: The third item on the agenda adopted at the organizational meeting held on 1 December 2000, contained in document A/CN.10/L.47, is the election of the Chairman and other officers for this session.

As you will recall, at the organizational meeting on 1 December, the Commission elected by acclamation the representatives of Nepal, Bolivia, Jamaica and Bulgaria as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Ko Ko Shein of Myanmar as Rapporteur. Still to be elected are the Chairman of the Commission, as well as two Vice-Chairmen from the Group of African States, one Vice-Chairman from the Group of Western European and Other States and one Vice-Chairman from the Group of Eastern European States.

In accordance with the established principle of rotation for the chairmanship of the Commission, the candidacy for the chairmanship for the year 2001 should have come from the Group of Western European and Other States. In a note verbale dated 6 April 2001, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Western European and Other States for the month of April 2001, advised the Secretariat that the Group was not in a position to nominate a candidate for the chairmanship. Canada informed the Secretariat that the post of Chairman for the 2001 session of the Disarmament Commission was thus available for another regional group.

Following the principle of rotation, the post of Chairman now moves to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. I would now like to give the floor to Mrs. Arce de Jeannet of Mexico.

Mrs. Arce de Jeannet (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to nominate Mrs. Diane Quarless, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, to serve as Chairperson of the Disarmament Commission during the 2001 substantive session. Mrs. Quarless is a career civil servant in the Foreign Ministry of Jamaica and has great experience in multilateral areas. We are sure that her diplomatic skills and knowledge of disarmament affairs will ensure success in the work of the Commission at that session.

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The Acting Chairman: If I hear no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to elect, by acclamation, Mrs. Diane Quarless of Jamaica as the Chairperson of the Commission for the year 2001.

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairman: Allow me on behalf of the Disarmament Commission and on my own behalf to offer warm congratulations to Mrs. Quarless and wish her success in discharging her responsible duties.

I now invite Mrs. Quarless to assume the chairmanship of the Commission, and I adjourn the resumed organizational session.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.